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League (U.S.)

[Aims, officers, history and
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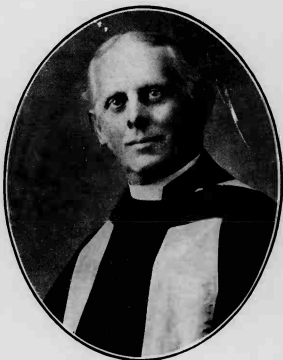
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THE LEAGUE exists for the promotion of the principles of Total Abstinence by non-political, unsectarian and constructive methods ; by which means a great impression has already been made upon the learned professions, the national services, and the public conscience.

The progress of medical opinion and scientific evidence against the use of alcohol is largely owing to the work of the League, which is open to co-operate with workers in all parts of the country in presenting the individual and racial aspects of the question to the more educated citizens and leaders of thought.

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I give and bequeath to the "National Temperance League" the sum of..... Pounds Sterling, to be raised and paid for the purpose of the said Society, out of my estate, for which legacy the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Society shall be a sufficient discharge of my Executor.

PATERNOSTER HOUSE,
LONDON, E.C.

January, 1911.

THE NATIONAL
TEMPERANCE LEAGUE

Was formed in the year 1856 by the union of the National Temperance Society with the London Temperance League, the former being the immediate successor of societies dating from 1831. The League is recognised, as will be seen from quotations on pp. 16-18, as the principal organization devoted to the educational and scientific aspects of the Temperance Movement. Its chief feature has been to endeavour to influence certain classes of the community, which, in their turn, are able to exert special influence upon the public generally.

The Christian Conscience.

In accordance with this method the League in the early sixties commenced a systematic campaign, with a view to arousing the Christian Church to a sense of its responsibility in regard to the national intemperance. The circulation to ten thousand clergy of a remarkable book, "Haste to the Rescue," by the

late Mrs. Wightman, wife of the Rector of St. Alkmund's, Shrewsbury, initiated a movement from which sprang the Church of England Temperance Society. Similar appeals, combined with Conferences at their annual assemblies, led to the formation of Temperance Committees and Associations in the Baptist, Congregational, Wesleyan and Presbyterian bodies. The League has endeavoured to follow up this organisation with special addresses in theological colleges of all denominations, and at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Personal Responsibility.

The share of the individual in decreasing the intemperance of the community has been forcibly brought before influential audiences, notably in the several Missions of the late John B. Gough, the great Anglo-American orator. Attended by some half-a-million of hearers his orations secured the adhesion and the active co-operation of large numbers of influential men and women, the effect of whose labours is still visible. The recent visit to London of the Rev. R. J. Patterson, LL.B., of Armagh, founder of the remarkable "Catch-my-Pal" Movement, and the thirty meetings he addressed in different districts, have

resulted in some 7,000 persons promising to obtain as many others as they can to join them in personal recruiting work, the extension of which throughout the country is only hindered by lack of funds.

The Educational Movement.

Temperance teaching in the school was commenced as far back as 1862, when the League's scientific lecturer gave the first addresses illustrated by chemical experiments to scholars in the London elementary schools. For nearly 45 years the League has held annual conferences with the members of the National Union of Teachers, and otherwise influenced the scholastic profession; thus preparing the way for the introduction of the systematic teaching of Hygiene and Temperance, which is now authorised by the Board of Education. The new "Syllabus" issued, and the plans made for its being taught in the training colleges, by the Minister of Education are encouraging to the pioneers of Temperance in the schools, but much still remains to be done in educating the teachers before the rising generation can be effectively safeguarded by the imparting of sound facts. The League contemplates an important departure in this direction.

Scientific Temperance.

The present attitude of the medical profession towards Temperance teaching in the schools, as well as towards the use of alcohol in health and disease, is very largely the outcome of the efforts of the League to encourage the study of the subject. The first meeting with medical men, held in the year 1862, was attended by fifteen; the latest of the 42 annual conferences which have been held at the British Medical Association's meetings, was attended by some hundreds of medical men. The arrangement by the League of the late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson's "Cantor" Lectures on Alcohol, at the Society of Arts, and the research attending thereon, prepared the way for that more scientific study which has led to the definite conclusions now held by the medical profession.

A Call for Increased Research.

Undoubtedly the evidence of specialists showing the effects of alcohol upon the brain and the blood, as well as in the causation, and hindrance to the cure, of disease has arrested public thought. Consequently opposition to Total Abstinence has changed in its character, and so-called scientific facts have been advanced in favour of alcohol, not only

by those financially concerned, but by some medical men. The League recognises therefore the need for further research work by clinicians, and in the laboratory. Some has already been undertaken by a Research Student, whom the League has partially supported at Cambridge, and a special Committee exists for the development of further work, as the necessary funds are forthcoming, for the elucidation of the truth as to the action of small doses of alcohol upon the human organism.

Physical Deterioration.

The Inter-departmental Committee appointed to consider this question by the Privy Council at the instigation of King Edward, after the South African war, marked a period in regard to public appreciation of the relation of alcohol to mental and physical efficiency. The League was invited to appoint two medical witnesses and convened an influential scientific Committee to formulate the evidence. This was presented to the Committee of Enquiry by Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., and Dr. Robert Jones, and along with the consequential evidence given by experts upon all aspects of the subject before the Committee, created a deep impression upon the members, and

led to the inclusion in their Report of the conviction that alcohol is "a most potent and deadly agent of physical deterioration."

Commercial and Industrial Efficiency.

was one of the most pregnant topics that emerged from the attention given by the Press to the Physical Deterioration Report. The League accordingly took advantage of its half-century connection with the Mansion House to secure the co-operation of the Lord Mayor in bringing the matter before the citizens, not only of London, but, through the splendid service of the Press, of the whole kingdom. The addresses of Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S., and Dr. T. B. Hyslop greatly impressed an audience composed, as to at least 75 per cent., of non-abstainers. The representative character of the gathering, which was also addressed by the Chairman of the L.C.C., the President of the London Chamber of Commerce, and the Senior Sheriff, was its most remarkable feature, and one of its most valuable results was its widespread influence, such as no other gathering of a similar size, in connection with the Temperance movement, has had in recent years. The Committee are hopeful of holding a similar meeting during the present Mayoralty.

A Temperance Army.

Early in its history the League came into contact with the National Services, an agent being appointed in the year 1859 to work among the soldiers at Aldershot. This small beginning grew by the co-operation of commanding officers until branches of the League were formed in most of the principal regiments. A Temperance Canteen at the Autumn Manœuvres on Dartmoor and at Cannock Chase in 1873 received the hearty approval of the then Commander-in-Chief, the late Duke of Cambridge, and led to great changes in the Army commissariat department. The Temperance work in the Indian Army was assisted in its early days by the League, which took part with the late Chaplain-General (Dr. Edghill) and the Church of England Temperance Society, in forming what is known as "The Royal Army Temperance Association," to the Council of which the League appoints 15 out of the 45 members, and is well represented upon its Executive.

A Sober Navy.

The wonderful work of Miss Agnes Weston in the Royal Navy is well known, and it is owing to the late Mr. Robert Rae, who was Secretary to the League for forty years, that she was induced to be

come honorary superintendent of what is now known as the Royal Naval Temperance Society. The first Society on board ship was started by the men of H.M.S. "Reindeer," with the approval of the late Admiral Sir William King Hall, and another Society having been formed in Portsmouth Dockyard by the Master-Shipwright, Mr. W. B. Robinson, enquiries from other ships and stations became so great that the League was asked to take over the work, and in 1873, under Miss Weston's superintendence, there commenced that great work which has effected so much. An increasingly valuable auxiliary is the Band of Hope at the Royal Hospital Schools at Greenwich, carried on by the League for no less than 37 years.

An Abstaining Democracy.

The League has been somewhat criticised for devoting so much attention in the past to the educated classes. The wisdom of the Committee has been proved by the success of its efforts, as is also the case in respect of its more recent operations among the Labour and Friendly Societies. The formation of the Trades Union and Labour Temperance Fellowship, which sprang from conferences at the annual Trades Union Congress,

is advantageously affecting the working classes. The demonstration of the relationship of the Temperance question to the thrift and co-operative movements, for which addresses at the Co-operative, Oddfellows and Foresters' annual gatherings afforded the opportunity, have brought the League into touch with the progressive spirit of the times. The direction of that spirit on Total Abstinence lines will materially tend to conserve the interests of all classes of the community.

Social Economics.

The great question which has to be presented to "the workman who thinks," who the *Times* says "is the severest critic of the workman who drinks," is the relationship of alcohol to those other detrimental problems of the day which are so much engaging attention. The League prepared careful memoranda of the position they take upon this question and submitted them to a series of Citizens' Conferences, presided over and addressed by distinguished public men of all parties. The Conferences were most influential, being well reported, and the League's "Memoirs" being quoted in the Press all over the country. The Discussions on Alcohol and the Child; Unemployment;

Waste, and Environment, held in the London County Hall during 1909, were attended by Social Reformers of every class, and prepared the way for the carrying out of

A Policy of Permeation.

This is at present engaging the attention of the League's staff, and it can well be extended to the limits of the most generous financial support. The appeal of the recent London "Catch-my-Pal" Crusade has been heard by men connected with the Church of England Men's Society, the Adult School Movement, the P.S.A. Brotherhood, and other organised efforts for moral and social amelioration. It is proposed, therefore, to endeavour to permeate *all* these and kindred societies with information that will, it is hoped, generate in at least one member, a spirit of personal responsibility, and lead him to engage in active recruiting work inside his Branch. The results to the individual and the nation in mental and physical efficiency, a higher standard of living, and in a consequent increase of industry and wages are incalculable. Herein lie possibilities which establish the Temperance Cause as the most potential movement of the 20th century.

The Nation and the Empire.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the League is truly a National organization, which has had considerable influence in changing the habits of the people in regard to intoxicating drinks. These changes have been indicated, and the state of public opinion registered at a series of important National Congresses held periodically in different parts of the country during the past fifty years; the World's Temperance Congress in 1900 and the League's Jubilee Convention in 1906, being occasions marking a great advance in the progress of Temperance principles. The International Congress on Alcoholism, held under distinguished auspices in 1909, in London, mainly under the management of the League, indicated their wide-spread application. The British and Colonial Temperance Congress of 1886 was responsible for important work being initiated in the interests of Native Races and of the people of India. The Committee of the League are at present engaged in organising an Imperial Temperance Conference to be held before the Coronation in June, from which they anticipate developments that will greatly advance sobriety throughout the Empire.

TRIBUTES TO THE LEAGUE.

THE HON. DEAN OF HEREFORD, in presiding for the first time as president of the League (May 2nd, 1904), said of his appointment: "It is an honour which I esteem above almost any other honour I have ever received. It was at a Breakfast given by the League in 1877 to the First Sanitary Congress held at Leamington, where I was then Vicar, that I saw things in a new light on the Temperance question. Amongst all our great organisations there is none that is doing a greater work in educating the masses than the National Temperance League."

SIR ALFRED PEARCE GOULD, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., speaking at the Imperial Institute in July, 1910, said in regard to the Medical Breakfast: "The ordinary Temperance Society would commit an act of impertinence in asking the Medical profession, as such, to such a function; but the League, I think, alone amongst Temperance organisations, does it with perfectly good taste. Medical men are here to-day as members of a Scientific profession. The League does not ask you to come here committed to any position, or with any desire prematurely, or by emotional appeals, to commit you hereafter to any position. It stands for the promotion and diffusion of accurate knowledge on this subject, and it is on that ground alone, in my belief, that it is justified in asking you to be present here

this morning . . . We desire most earnestly to impress upon you our contention that it is by the growth and diffusion of accurate scientific knowledge alone that this League desires to influence for good the social life and customs of this country."

THE LORD BISHOP OF CROYDON, Chairman of the C.E.T.S., speaking at the 44th Annual Meeting, 1910, said, with reference to the League's work, "I know of no Society that has been more prominent in promulgating congresses and meetings of a most helpful character. What the League has done in stimulating and co-ordinating efforts, and in forming public opinion, which must, after all, lie at the very root of our prosperity and success in the future, it would, I think, be impossible to exaggerate."

SIR THOMAS BARLOW, BART., K.C.V.O., P.R.C.P., speaking at Kensington, July, 1910, said: "In season and out of season for many years the National Temperance League has given force and effectiveness to the Temperance campaign, especially in relation to the meetings of our great British Medical Association. I do not think anybody, even the most carping critic, can deny that the League has pursued this work with good taste and without one trace of bigotry, but with the greatest desire that the truth shall prevail, and we are grateful to them for the way in which they have pressed this matter upon us, and appealed to us to face this most vital question."

THE LORD BISHOP OF KENSINGTON, speaking at the annual Medical Breakfast of 1910, on "the responsibility of knowledge," said: "We are immensely grateful that the National Temperance League has taken the decided step in this direction that it has. It is justifying to itself the proud position of being the brain and the intelligence department of Temperance reform. And it is for this reason—speaking for myself—that I prefer that any time or any effort that I am able now to devote to the cause shall be in connection with the National Temperance League, because I believe it is destined to be more and more the great educating force in the direction of Temperance reform."

SIR JAMES H. YOXALL, M.P., Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, regretting absence from the anniversary (1910), said of the League: "I am not sure that it is not the most effective of all the Temperance organisations, because it operates in a pervasive and permeating way without giving offence or causing friction. I have had reason to note with approval the wisdom of the attitude taken by the League towards one or two questions of practical difficulty, and I am sure that the influence of the League upon Teachers and Teaching has been very considerable."



The League's Operations

DURING 1910 INCLUDED:

- The Annual Movable Conference in Reading, comprising a week-end series of 15 important engagements.
- Breakfast Conference on Increased Scientific Research at the British Association Meeting in Sheffield.
- The Annual Breakfast Conference with Members of the British Medical Association at the Imperial Institute.
- The Annual Breakfast Conference with the National Union of Teachers in Plymouth.
- Issue of the Report of the proceedings of the 12th International Congress on Alcoholism; edited by the Secretary.
- Extensive Circulation of the Scientific Slides and Descriptive Booklet on "Alcohol and the Human Body."
- Annual Meeting of the Trades Union and Labour Officials' Temperance Fellowship at Sheffield.
- Thirty-seventh year of the Royal Hospital Schools Band of Hope at Greenwich.
- Reception to the Sons of Temperance National Division on their visit to London.
- The London Workers' Conferences held monthly for discussion of subjects useful for advocacy.
- "London's Awakening" by the great "Catchmy-Pal" Crusade, 30 Meetings attended by 24,000 persons, nearly 7,000 pledges to date.
- Co-operation in the Royal Army Temperance Association, the Native Races and other Committees, and in the C.E.T.S. Forward Movement.
- Fraternal Deputations to kindred organisations, Eugenic and Scientific Lectures, and speakers appointed to special meetings.
- Publication of "The Annual Summary" (6,000) and "The National Temperance Quarterly," containing important discussion of the Pearson-Elderton Memoir on the Influence of parental alcoholism on Offspring.

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THE Official Magazine of the National Temperance League, is a High-class Review of work and progress in Science, Education and Literature as applied to the Temperance movement, and contains the most recent evidence from Medical, Economic and Social sources of information, along with articles dealing with the Physical and Moral, the Legislative and Constructive aspects of the Question.

Published during the latter half of March, June, September and December, the price of the quarterly is 1s., or 4s. per annum post free; it is also sent to all Subscribers to the League of 10s. and upwards per annum. Subscribers of less than 10s. receive "The Quarterly Review," containing current information on the various aspects of the subject useful to platform or personal workers.

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